



Orrin Benn
President

Submission No. 8
Date Received

July 9, 2008

RECEIVED
16 JUL 2008
BY: ATSI

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Secretary,

Re: CAMSC Submission to the Standing Committee Inquiry

I have been invited to provide a submission to your Inquiry into developing Indigenous business enterprises. Please accept this letter as the CAMSC submission to your Inquiry.

As president of CAMSC it is indeed an exciting prospect to see the growth in interest in this area. Specifically we have been briefed on the Parliamentary Inquiry taking place and have reviewed the Terms of Reference. CAMSC's submission is limited to focussing on the term of reference which relates to the adaptation of the U.S. Supplier Diversity model.

Indeed we feel we can speak with considerable experience on this matter as we in Canada have been through exactly the process your Inquiry is considering.

In our four years of operation CAMSC has been effective in facilitating over 200 million dollars of procurement for Aboriginal and minority companies. We know the model works so we enthusiastically support the founding of a similar organization in Australia.

CAMSC, and myself personally, have been closely involved with the Australians whom have been researching the situation here and in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Where possible we have provided information, guidance, advice and counsel over the past twelve months. This group has earned our respect, confidence and support with the manner in which they have conducted their work with us and our global colleagues.

From what we have learnt of the situation regarding Indigenous Australians, I certainly would be recommending the type of Supplier Diversity strategies that have proven so effective in the U.S., here in Canada and more recently in the United Kingdom. If you are seeking ways to increase the level of economic engagement of Indigenous Australians, then I would very much encourage and support the type of initiative that is being presented to you.

The chair of CAMSC will be attending the launch of the Australian council to lend support and encouragement to such a worthwhile initiative, furthermore CAMSC will continue to provide feedback on best practices and work closely with our Australian colleagues to ensure success of the Australian council.

I invite you to contact my office if you wish to obtain further information on this letter of support.

Yours Sincerely


Orrin Benn
President